



## George Mason Jazz Festival - Saturday, February 14 (Harris Theatre)



By Darden Purcell, D.M.A., Mason Director of Jazz Studies, Jazz Voice

In 2026, the George Mason Jazz Festival headlining act will be [The Airmen of Note](#).

### The festival includes:

- Scholarships to the [George Mason Jazz Camp](#), summer 2026
- 3 "Outstanding Soloist" (cash prizes) and
- 4 "Best Section" certificates
- Live performance recordings for band directors
- Written feedback from adjudicators

### 2026 Adjudicators:

- [Taylor Barnett](#) - trumpeter with the No BS! Brass, director of Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
- [Jim Carroll](#) - saxophonist with Woody Herman Orchestra, founder of Mason Jazz and director of the Mason Jazz Ensemble
- [Stephen Philip Harvey](#) - saxophonist, composer, bandleader, professor at Salisbury University and Youngstown State University

### 2026 George Mason Jazz Faculty Clinicians:

- Aaron Eckert, trombone, U.S. Army Blues
- Shawn Purcell – guitar, retired U.S. Navy Commodores
- Ben Thomas – bass, U.S.A.F. Airmen of Note
- Kevin McDonald – drums, U.S. Navy Commodores

# GEORGE MASON JAZZ FESTIVAL

with special guests **USAF AIRMEN OF NOTE**



## FEBRUARY 14, 2026

10 a.m. - 9 p.m., HARRIS THEATRE

### Closing Festival Performance at 7 p.m.

George Mason Jazz Ensemble, director Jim Carroll  
The USAF Band AIRMEN OF NOTE!



[go.gmu.edu/georgemasonjazzfest](http://go.gmu.edu/georgemasonjazzfest)



### MASON JAZZ FESTIVAL

February 14  
10:00 – 9:00 (pm)

Harris Theatre

All concerts are free and open to the public; no tickets are required. **FREE parking in LOT K.**

**Website:** [go.gmu.edu/georgemasonjazzfest](http://go.gmu.edu/georgemasonjazzfest)

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## Call for Photos for OLLI Ink 2026



1. **Call for Photos:** *OLLI Ink*, the literary magazine published each spring, will be accepting **black and white photos for the interior magazine and color photos for the inside back cover** for the 2026 edition beginning now.



2. **Deadline for Submissions:** The submission deadline will be **11:59 (pm) on Friday, February 20**. NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE!
3. **Participants:** OLLI Photo Club (OPC) photographers **may submit up to 5 color photos for the inside back cover, and up to 10 black and white photos for inside pages of the *OLLI Ink* publication**. The placement of each inside photo is determined by the layout editor, depending on space, and **cannot be expected to relate to any specific piece of writing**.
4. **Photo Orientation and Watermark Restriction:** **Color photos** for the front or inside back covers must be in a **portrait orientation**. **Black and white photos** for the interior pages can be in **either a portrait or landscape orientation**. No watermarks are permitted on any photo submissions.
1. **Selection Process:** This year, due to time constraints, OLLI volunteers will select the **black and white photos**. The *OLLI Ink* editorial staff will select the front cover from **color photos submitted for the front cover**. The **candidate photos will not display the photographers' names to avoid favoritism**.

\*\*\*FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBMITTING PHOTOS, PLEASE CONTACT ONE of the following: [Margie Wildblood](#) [George Bradshaw](#) or [Sophia Elberti](#). Thank you.

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## Spotlight on NOVA Course Series in 2026



By **Camille Hodges, OLLI HSS/CE Committee Chair**

The Humanities and Social Sciences/Current Events (HSS/CE) Program Planning Group plans to continue featuring various communities in NOVA in its upcoming selections of courses. We have previously featured *A Place Called Ilda* (a community in the Annandale/Canterbury Woods area) as well as other notable communities in Fairfax by the authors of *Black Communities of Fairfax: A History*. Courses anticipated are: Falls Church/Tinner Hill, Arlington (Green Valley (Nauck), Arlington View (Johnson's Hill), Alexandria), and a history of the Fairfax County Courthouse.

If you have the desire to share expertise on historic regions in NOVA, please submit your course proposal using the link <https://olli.gmu.edu/olli-course-proposal-form/>. Ensure that you click

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## History Club

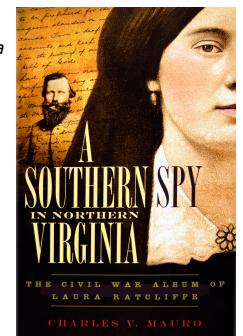


**By Doug Snoeyenbos, History Club Coordinator**

The History Club will meet on Zoom next Wednesday, February 4, at 4:00. The link will be in the morning daily schedule email.

Our presenter will be author Chuck Mauro, and his presentation will be titled *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe*. Laura lived in Herndon and provided information to the Confederates. The album, also used as a guestbook, was given to her by the dashing Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. Stuart also wrote four poems for Laura to help cement her allegiance to the Confederate cause. Chuck will show how Laura's story illustrates the competing considerations that were felt by many Southern sympathizers living in contested or Union-controlled territory.

Chuck is a retired federal employee who has published 15 books, most related to the Civil War. He is a fine storyteller, and this should be an excellent presentation.



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## Poet's Corner

*Courtesy of the Poetry Workshop*

### It's Complicated

After enough time for me  
to fall out of lust and into love  
you said my dark eyes turned  
smoky.

I imagined you would be  
water in my desert, manna,  
potentially shelter in my storms.

I've been both right  
and wrong.

-Carolyn Wyatt

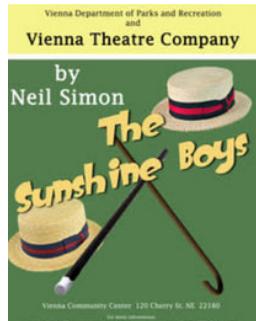
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## Enjoy a Little Sunshine and a Quick Trip to the Caribbean with Theater Lovers Group



**By Norma Jean Reck, Coordinator, Theater Lovers' Group**

February is special in that it is packed with celebrations from major holidays like Valentine's Day to quirky national days like National Love Your Pet Day to notable events like Super Bowl Sunday. In keeping with the 'special' theme, OLLI's Theater Lovers' Group (TLG) is planning to attend two plays - Neil Simon's The Sunshine Boys and Once on this Island - both of which address what is special to the human experience. You are invited to join us.



On Sunday, February 8, TLG will attend the 2pm matinee performance of The Sunshine Boys, performed by The Vienna Theatre Company in The Vienna Community Center, located at 120 Cherry Street in Vienna. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased online at [viennatheatrecompany.org](http://viennatheatrecompany.org). The story is based on real life comedians who became estranged after a successful vaudeville career together. The story of their reuniting is told with lots of humor and hilarious one-liners. We will meet for an optional lunch at Carnegie Diner, located at 507 Maple Avenue West at 11:30am. (You will be back home in time for the Super Bowl.)

On Sunday, February 15, TLG will attend the 3pm matinee performance of Once on this Island, performed by the City of Fairfax Theater Community at Katherine Johnson Middle School, located at 3801 Jermantown Road in Fairfax. Tickets are \$31.60 and can be purchased online at [fairfaxcitytheatre.org](http://fairfaxcitytheatre.org). This Caribbean inspired musical is about the unbreakable human spirit and the power of love. We will meet at Luciano's on Chain Bridge Road and Hunter Mill Road in Oakton for an optional lunch at 11:30am.

Feel free to bring a guest or two. We will have separate checks, and there is plenty of free parking at each venue. Just remember to email me Norma at [njreck@cs.com](mailto:njreck@cs.com) to let me know you will be joining us. Everyone is welcome.

are published unedited, exactly as submitted.



### TLG Lunch Bunch at Auld Shebeen



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## Arts & Music at George Mason

Performances January 30 through February 8



**By Shelly Gersten, OLLI E-News Staff Writer**

The College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) has several web sites of performances, talks etc.

[CFA ticket purchase page](#)

[Center for the Arts YouTube channel](#)

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[music.calendar.gmu.edu/](http://music.calendar.gmu.edu/)  
[theater.calendar.gmu.edu/](http://theater.calendar.gmu.edu/)  
[dance.calendar.gmu.edu/](http://dance.calendar.gmu.edu/)  
[masonexhibitions.org/](http://masonexhibitions.org/)

and if you miss a live performance, there is a pay-per-view for many:

<https://cfa.gmu.edu/events/paid-digital-performances>. For tickets for either Center for the Arts Concert Hall (CFA) or Hylton Center, call 1-888-945-2468. You can also buy tickets online through the event calendar (see links above) or visit the venue's box office.

Dr. Linda Apple Monson produces a periodic "Notes from the Director." This email is full of information on interesting online performances by the students and faculty of the School of Music. If you would like to receive these bulletins, just sign up at [this link](#) to stay in touch. Also, the Center for the Arts has a website, [Mason Arts at Home](#), which has a calendar of online events and access to many past performances.

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#### At the **Fairfax Campus** venues

##### ***Curious George: The Golden Meatball***

Sat, Jan 31, 11:00 and 2:00  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: \$24.

##### ***Homecoming Comedy Headliner Josh Johnson***

Thu, Feb 5, 9:00  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: \$65, \$55, \$45.

##### ***Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble***

Sat, Feb 7, 8:00  
 A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: \$81, \$71, \$55.

##### ***Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: The Soul of Tango with Berta Rojas, Guitar***

Sat, Feb 7, 8:00  
 Harris Theatre  
 Admission: \$75, \$64, \$54.

##### ***Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: Poetic Tone Pictures***

Sun, Feb 8, 7:00  
 Concert Hall  
 Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

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#### **Fairfax Campus Visual Arts**

(details can be found at <https://www.masonexhibitions.org/>)

##### ***The Mirage of Ancient Egypt: Exploring Ancient Egypt's Legacy in Popular Culture***

Through February 13, 2026  
 Fenwick Gallery

##### ***The Prescription is Home***

January 23 - April 18, 2026  
 Mason Exhibitions, Arlington Campus

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[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)**MASON Student and Faculty Performances**(see [music.gmu.edu](http://music.gmu.edu) for additional student recitals)**Mason Cabaret: Heart and Music, The Songs of William Finn**

Fri, Jan 30, 7:30  
 Sat, Jan 31, 2:00 and 7:30  
 Sun, Feb 1, 2:00  
 Harris Theatre  
 Admission: \$35 Adult, \$19 Senior.

**Guest Recital: Michael Burner, trombone**

Mon, Feb 2, 6:30  
 Music Theater Building, 1023  
 Admission: Free.

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RS:

[Back to Top of Page](#)[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)**At the Hylton Center (Manassas Campus)****Mason Cabaret: Heart and Music, The Songs of William Finn**

Fri, Feb 6, 7:30  
 Gregory Family Theater  
 Admission: \$35 Adult, \$19 Senior.

**Cirque Mechanics**

Sat, Feb 7, 2:00 and 8:00  
 A pre-performance discussion begins one hour prior to the performance.  
 Merchant Hall  
 Admission: \$60, \$52, \$38.

**American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras:*****Harp Ensemble, Concert Orchestra and Symphonic Orchestra in Concert***

Sun, Feb 8, 3:00  
 Merchant Hall  
 Admission: \$14.

**Visual Arts: OFFERINGS TO THE POTOMAC  
ACKNOWLEDGING INDIGENOUS PLACE**

February 24 - May 15, 2026  
 Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Manassas Campus

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For further details on any of the above events, see the [CFA Event Calendar](#) and the [Hylton Center event calendar](#).

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**Please note:** OLLI Meetings and Clubs may currently take place in several formats: some are in person only, some are online only, and some are hybrid, meaning that they take place in person and are accessible online simultaneously. OLLI events and activities meeting online bear the identification "Z" in their course or event number (except clubs; you may need to check the [OLLI calendar](#) and daily schedule email for location and other event information).

The following list covering the next two weeks is extracted for your convenience from the master online calendar maintained by the office. The list is accurate as of mid-week. *Note: All OLLI members are welcome at, and encouraged to attend, meetings of the Board of Directors,*

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Sat Jan 31	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Feb 2	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Feb 3	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	3:45 pm	Caregivers Support Group – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Feb 4	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	11:50 am	Literary Roundtable – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club
	1:30 pm	Dabbling Artists Club – online
	2:00 pm	Memoir and More Writing Group – online
	4:00 pm	History Club – online
	4:00 pm	Spanish Club – online
Thu Feb 5	11:50 am	All the News
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
	6:00 pm	Ethnic Eats Club – online
Fri Feb 6	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	10:00 am	Mah Jongg Club
	11:00 am	Homer, etc. – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	2:00 pm	Classic Literature Club – online
Sat Feb 7	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online
Mon Feb 9	9:30 am	What's in the Daily News? – online
	4:00 pm	Family History/Genealogy Club – online
	4:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
Tue Feb 10	2:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:00 pm	Mah Jongg Club – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Wed Feb 11	11:50 am	Investment Forum
	11:50 am	Literary Roundtable – online
	12:00 noon	Chair Yoga and More – online
	1:30 pm	Board Game Club
	1:30 pm	Bridge Club
	4:00 pm	Spanish Page Turner Club – online
Thu Feb 12	11:50 am	All the News
	3:00 pm	Chair Yoga and More – online
	4:30 pm	Tai Chi Club – online
Fri Feb 13	9:30 am	Photography Club
	9:30 am	Crafts and Conversation
	11:00 am	Homer, etc.
	11:30 am	Cooking Club

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	2:30 pm	Tallwood Book Club – online
	4:00 pm	French Conversation and Happy Hour – online
Sat Feb 14	10:30 am	Tai Chi Club – online

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## About *OLLI E-News*

*OLLI E-News* was created by Rod Zumbro, who served as its editor from 2005 to 2013.

### Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Paul Van Hemel

Associate Editors: David Gundry, Deborah Kruesi

Weekly Editor Team: David Gundry, Chitra Mohla, John Nash, Paul Van Hemel

Proofreaders: Rebecca Jann, Susan Van Hemel, Thomas Appich, Martha Kossoff, Anne Hartshorn, Bonnie Becker, Carol McManus

**Submissions:** Members are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, letters to Ms. Ollie Ettakit (on etiquette matters), OLLI-related news items, articles, and photos. Submit material to: [alienewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:alienewseditor@gmail.com).

**Deadline:** Tuesday, 6:00, for that week's issue (Monday, 6:00, for letters to the editor); early submissions are greatly appreciated. Please limit articles to about 250 words.

**Note:** You can view past issues of *OLLI E-News* on the DocStore. To search the content of issues, use Search Our Site or put your search term in Google followed by "site:olli.gmu.edu/" without the quotes.

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